

C1 This application is a continuation of application No. 08/934,121, filed September 19, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,041,094, which is a continuation of application No.08/372,658, filed January 13, 1995, now abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 08/059,201, filed May 7, 1993, now U.S. Patent No. 5,383,233.

In the claims:

Please amend claim 45 by replacing current claim 45 with the following amended claim 45:

C2 45. (Amended) A method of radiographic examination as defined in claim 36, further comprising the steps of providing a plurality of said markers in predetermined shapes enhancing the information communicated by the markers, including:

- (a) a first marker defining the shape of a circle;
- (b) a second marker defining the shape of a triangle; and
- (c) a third marker defining the shape of a straight line.

Please add the following new claims:

C3 54. (New) A method of radiographic examination as defined in claim 45, wherein said step of providing a plurality of said markers in predetermined shapes further includes providing:

- (d) a fourth marker defining the shape of cross; and
- (e) a fifth marker in the shape of an arrow.

55. (New) A marker for mammographic examination of breast tissue having anatomical detail present in the tissue, wherein a source of x-ray radiation is provided for generating

radiation at a predetermined energy level suitable for imaging breast tissue, the marker is positioned between the source of x-ray radiation and the breast tissue, and the marker and breast tissue are exposed to the x-ray radiation at the predetermined energy level to generate a radiographic image of the tissue having the shadow of the marker superimposed thereon, the marker comprising:

a first outer surface for contacting a patient's breast tissue; a second outer surface located on an opposite side of the marker relative to the first outer surface; and means located between the first and second outer surfaces for generating a radiographic image of the tissue having the shadow of the marker superimposed thereon with the anatomical detail present in the tissue clearly visible through the radiographic shadow projected by the marker.

56. (New) A mammography marker as defined in claim 55, wherein said means includes at least one partially radiolucent, partially radiopaque material defining a density and thickness based on the breast tissue density and the predetermined energy level of the radiation provided which absorbs from about 2% to about 75% of the incident radiation.

57. (New) A mammography marker as defined in claim 56, wherein the partially radiopaque, partially radiolucent material is selected from the group including: (i) rubber having a thickness of less than about 0.4 inches; (ii) plastic having a thickness of less than about 0.2 inches; (iii) vinyl having a thickness of less than about 1 mm; and (iv) aluminum having a thickness of less than about 0.022 inches.

58. (New) A mammography marker as defined in claim 57, wherein the plastic is impregnated with the metal.

59. (New) A method of mammographic examination of breast tissue having anatomical detail present in the tissue, comprising the steps of:

providing a source of x-ray radiation having a predetermined energy level capable of generating radiation suitable for imaging breast tissue;

providing a partially radiolucent, partially radiopaque marker having a radiographic density and thickness which permit the marker to both project a radiographic shadow and transmit sufficient radiation to image anatomical detail present in breast tissue when the marker and the tissue are exposed to the predetermined level of x-ray radiation during mammographic examination;

positioning the marker between the source of x-ray radiation and the breast tissue; and

exposing the marker and the tissue to the x-ray radiation at the predetermined energy level, and generating a radiographic image of the tissue having the shadow of the marker superimposed thereon with the anatomical detail present in the tissue clearly visible through the radiographic shadow projected by the marker.

60. (New) A method of mammographic examination as defined in claim 59, wherein said providing step includes selecting the density and thickness of the marker based on the breast tissue density and the predetermined energy level of the radiation provided to absorb from about 2% to about 75% of the incident radiation.

61. (New) A method of mammographic examination as defined in claim 59, further comprising the steps of adhesively securing the marker to a patient's breast tissue such that the marker is positioned between the source of x-radiation and the breast tissue, transmitting radiation within the range of about 20kV to about 40kV through the marker and the underlying breast tissue, and generating a radiographic image of the tissue having the shadow of the marker superimposed thereon with the anatomical detail present in the tissue clearly visible through the radiographic shadow projected by the marker.